



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2011

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

GRAND BLOWOUT SHEEP ALLOTMENT

PLEASE CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permittee

Ball Brothers Sheep Company

Season of Use

June 20th to September 10th

Permitted Number

1000 ewes/lambs

The authorized season for 2011 is July 1 to September 15.

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:



GRAZING SCHEDULE

For the 2011 season truck the sheep to Little Elk Creek to unload begin grazing the following schedule:

Sequence

Graze 1st

Graze 2nd

Graze 3rd

Units

Little Elk

Quaker Flat

Spaulding Basin

At the end of the grazing season or at proper use of the scheduled units (which ever occurs first), truck the sheep from the Blowout Sheep Corrals and exit the National Forest.

The Grand Canyon Unit will be rested during the 2011 grazing season.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Grand Blowout Allotment involves two components the Grand Canyon Unit and the Blowout Unit. Previously these two areas were managed as separate allotments. Each allotment was grazed by 1000 head of sheep. The two allotments have now been combined to be grazed by one band of 1000 head. Currently the Grand Blowout Allotment is used in conjunction with the Current-Deadman Allotment, which is grazed

by 1000 ewes/lambs. Two bands of sheep graze the three areas (Blowout, Grand Canyon, and Current-Deadman). The three areas rotate through a rest rotation scheduled where two are grazed each season and one area rested. This system has proven to work well and leaves each entire area to be rested every third year.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herding

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to shade up along the streams. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

Salting

No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land.

Camps

Herder camps should be located at least 50 feet from the trails if possible. Low impact camping techniques will be used such as: picketing or highlining any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time, using existing fire rings or removing sod from a new

fire ring and replacing it before you leave, caching tent poles cut from native trees to use another year. Picket lines will be of a length so not to allow pack and saddle stock to cross roads or trails. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash from your sheep camps including any trash that is left from previous years or items left by other campers. Keep camps clean while they are occupied.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

Maintain the water troughs prior to sheep entering the unit. You are responsible for the maintenance of the Blowout Sheep Corral.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

Range Improvements

We appreciate your work in reconstruction of the Dry Canyon and Spaulding Basin Water Troughs. With the recent reconstruction and proper annual maintenance these facilities should be in service for many years.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. Adhere to the travel plan while managing your sheep on the allotment. As a grazing permittee you may acquire a permit to travel cross-country to maintain range. Please be sure you have your permit in possession when traveling cross-country by motor vehicle. This permit is good for no more than two trips per week.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Musk thistle occurs only in a few locations on the allotment making it a high priority to control. Musk thistle can be treated by cutting plants at the root prior to setting seed. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). A news release with contact information from the USF&WS has been included in your grazing folder. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that requires a change to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will direct management for this allotment for the 2011 grazing season.

/s/ Ball Bros. Sheep by Robert Ball
Permittee

3/30/11
Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen
ROBBERT MICKELSEN
District Ranger

4/1/11
Date